

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-15 /069 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1893

INFO 16TH AF TORREJON

JUSMAAG MADRID

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US MISSION NATO 594

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TAGS: MARR, PFOR, SP

SUBJ: PRESS SPECULATION ON BASE NEGOTIATIONS

REF: MADRID 2815

1. SPANISH PRESS HAS BEEN PROVIDING PROMINENT COVERAGE TO NEWS REPORTS EMANATING FROM U.S. PRESS OVER CURRENT STATE OF SPANISH/U.S. BASE NEGOTIATIONS. BASIC SPECULATION IS THAT NEGOTIATIONS HAVE REACHED IMPASSE AND THAT PRESIDENT HAS DECIDED TO ACCEPT INVITATION TO VISIT SPAIN IN ORDER TO CREATE CLIMATE NECESSARY TO GET TALKS MOVING AGAIN, FIVE ROUNDS HAVING THUS FAR TAKEN PLACE WITHOUT BREAKTHROUGH IN BASIC ISSUES. OTHER THEMES ARE INCREASED SPANISH BARGAINING POWER IN CURRENT WORLD CIRCUMSTANCES, FACT THE U.S. FOREIGN POLICY IS NOW MORE OF SHARED UNDERTAKING BETWEEN EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES THAN PREVIOUSLY, AND UNPOPULARITY OF BASES.

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2. IN ARTICLE APPEARING MAY 15 EDITION OF CATHOLIC

BAILY 'YA' CORRESPONDENT GUSTABO VALVERDE STATES THAT OFFICIAL U.S. SOURCES--INCLUDING THOSE IN AMBASSADOR MCCLOSKEY'S OFFICE-- MAINTAIN MAXIMUM CAUTION IN REFERRING TO IMPASSE. HOWEVER, "INFORMATION EMANATING FROM U.S. PRESS LEAVES NO ROOM FOR DOUBT OVER COMPLICATED STATE OF AFFAIRS WHICH PERIODIC CONTACT BETWEEN TWO GOVTS HAS EXPERIENCED.

3. OTHER PRESS REPORTS FROM U.S. ARE CITED, INCLUDING RECENT ACOCA ARTICLE IN WASHINGTON POST AS WELL AS ARTICLES IN TIME, POST, AND BALTIMORE SUN WHICH DISCUSS IMPLICATIONS ON BASE NEGOTIATIONS OF IMPENDING SPANISH SUCCESSION AND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN MEDITERRANEAN AND SOUTHEAST ASIA.

4. EDITORIAL IN MAY 12 ISSUE OF WEEKLY "ACTUALIDAD ESPANOLA" NOTES PRESS REPORTS THAT, IN LIGHT OF RECENT UNFAVORABLE INTERNATIONAL EVENTS, VIEW IN U.S. IS THAT RELATIONS WITH SPAIN SHOULD BE CLOSER. EDITORIAL GOES ON TO OBSERVE THAT WHILE IT IS FINE FOR U.S. TO BELIEVE SPAIN MIGHT BE GOOD AND FAITHFUL ALLY, IN REALITY, SPANISH PEOPLE PREFER THAT THEY BE LEFT TO LIVE THEIR OWN LIVES, THAT CERTAIN GREAT POWERS FORGET THEM A LITTLE INSTEAD OF BEING EXCESSIVELY PREOCCUPIED WITH THEM, SINCE KINDNESS CAN KILL."

5. EDITORIAL IN MAY 18 EDITION OF "YA" EMPHASIZES THAT NEW AGREEMENT SHOULD PROVIDE SPAIN POSSIBILITIES FOR INDUSTRIAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT AND THEREFORE SHOULD BE SOMETHING MORE THAN MEANS FOR U.S. TO SHOW OFF ITS OWN GIMCRACKS. EDITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGES IMPOSSIBILITY FOR SPAIN'S MEMBERSHIP IN NATO NOW, BUT AT SAME TIME NOTES UNPOPULARITY OF U.S. BASES, OBSERVING THAT SPANISH PEOPLE "WILL BREATHE SIGH OF RELIEF ONCE THEY DISAPPEAR." IN ANY CASE, WITHOUT BASIC MEANINGFUL ECONOMIC, INDUSTRIAL, AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION, BASES HAVE NO REASON TO EXIST AND SHOULD DISAPPEAR.

6. FINALLY, IN EDITORIAL PUBLISHED MAY 13 IN MONARCHIST DAILY "ABC," SPAIN'S FORMER AMBASSADOR TO U.S. ANTONIO GARRIGUES (REFTEL MADRID USINFO 2815) NOTED SECRETARY KISSINGER'S COMMENTS TO EFFECT THAT FOREIGN POLICY MUST NOW UNCLASSIFIED

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BE SHARED UNDERTAKING BETWEEN EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATURE, THAT WHILE EXECUTIVE AGREEMENTS HAD FULL FORCE IN TIME DURING HEGEMONY OF PRESIDENT, THEY NOW HAVE BECOME MORE PROBLEMATIC SINCE AGREEMENT OF BOTH EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE POWERS IS NECESSARY IN WHATEVER INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT REACHED. "THIS", GARRIGUES NOTES, "IS IMPORTANT FOR SPAIN AT THIS HOUR". STABLER

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